

# Types of Interest Groups

# Institutional Interests

**Definition: Individuals or organizations representing other organizations.**

## **Examples**

- **General Motors (Business)**
- **Governmental/Trade Association**
- **National Independent Retail Jewelers**
- **National Association of Counties**

# Institutional Interests

- **Tend to be interested in bread-and-butter issues.**
  - **A settlement that will affect financial issues.**
- **People who specialize in this work sometimes earn larger fees.**
- **If they earn a lot then they are expected to give a lot.**

# **Institutional Interests**

- **Institutional Interests don't just represent business firms but also governments, foundations, and universities.**
  1. **American Council on Education**
  2. **American Public Transit**
  3. **Nation Association of Counties**

# Membership Interests

- **These interest groups are made of people who join voluntarily.**
- **The main concept is when a situation arises and there is keen interest in a topic that they feel strongly about, they will be in that interest group.**
- **More likely to join businesses, professional, veterans, or charitable organizations.**
- **Less likely to join labor unions.**

# Membership Interests

- **People who sympathize these organizations don't join because:**
  - **one person cannot make a huge difference**
  - **not just members, but non members, also get benefitted from the organization.**

# Incentives to Join

1. **Solidary Incentives: The social rewards that lead people to join political organizations.**
  - a. **Examples:**
    - i. **League of Women Voters**
    - ii. **Parent Teacher Association**
    - iii. **NAACP**
2. **Material Incentives: Money or things valued in monetary terms**
  - a. **Farm Organizations**
  - b. **Retired Persons (AARP)**
3. **Purposive Incentive: A benefit that comes from serving a cause or principle.**
  - a. **Also known as ideological interest groups for attracting their members by their interests.**

# **Influence to the Staff**

- 1. Many issues affect different members in different ways.**
- 2. Sometimes what the interest group does reflects more what the staff wants than what the members believe.**



# Social Movements

- **Social Movement-** widely shared demand for change in some aspect of the social or political order.
- **Examples:** social rights movement, and environmentalist movement of 1970.
- **These social movements don't need to have liberal goals.**
- **There is no distinct reason on why people start social movements.**

**-The overlining reason is that people have many different opinions on all sorts of topics.**

**-Many of these movements are triggered by a scandal, publicized activities of leaders, or when a new generation arises with new opinions.**

# Environmental Movement

- When new interest groups are created that rely on peoples incentives.
- Examples:
  1. 1890- when the emergence of conservation was an issue, the Sierra Club was created.
  2. 1930's- the issue of conservation became huge and the Wilderness Society and the National Wildlife fund took action.
  3. 60's & 70's- issue of environmentalism came about and the Environmental defense fund and Environmental action took form.

# **Feminist Movement**

**-Women standing up for their rights and voicing their opinions.**

**Example:**

**In 1920 the League of Women voters was founded to educate and organize women for the purpose of using their newly found right to vote.**

# **Three Types of Feminist Movements**

- 1. When they rely on solidary incentives, enroll women with a lot of schooling, and support the widest of all causes.**

**Examples: League of Women Voters, and Federation of Business and Professional Women.**

- 2. Organizations that attract members with purposive incentives.**

**Examples: National Organization for Women, and the National Abortion Rights Action League.**

- 3. Caucus that takes on specific issues that have some material benefit to women.**

**Example: Women's Equity Action League**

# **Union Movement**

**-an organized attempt by workers to improve their status.**

- Example: in the 1930's during the Great Depression, popular support and sympathetic administration in Washington created a growth in Union Membership.**
- Union Membership has been on a steady decline, and today only 11% of all workers are unionized.**

# Funds for Interest Groups

- **Foundation grants**
  - Money given by specific foundations.
- **Federal/Government grants**
  - Money given by the government.
- **Direct Mail**
  - Money given from those contacted through a mailing list.

# The Problem of Bias

- **Upper class bias**
  - **Wealthy VS. Poor**
    - **higher incomes**
    - **college education**
    - **professional/technical jobs**